

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1110

Introduced by Assembly Member Parra

February 22, 2005

An act to add Article 8 (commencing with Section 41580) to Chapter 3.2 of Part 24 of the Education Code, relating to school finance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1110, as introduced, Parra. School Transportation Block Grant.

Existing law provides for block grants to be composed of funding for specified existing categorical education programs, makes those programs inoperative on July 1, 2005, and repeals them on January 1, 2006, with certain exceptions. Existing law provides for categorical programs relating to school transportation.

This bill would enact the School Transportation Block Grant. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to apportion block grant funds to a school district in the same relative statewide proportion that the school district was entitled to receive under the Budget Act of 2005 for specified transportation purposes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares as
- 2 follows:
- 3 (1) The allocation that a school district receives for regular and
- 4 special education transportation services is much less than the
- 5 actual cost that is incurred by the school district. Further, the

1 allocation is much less than the amount received by a school
2 district in 1982, as adjusted for cost-of-living and enrollment
3 increases.

4 (2) California's rural school districts have disproportionately
5 high transportation costs because they serve fewer pupils per
6 square mile and must transport pupils over longer distances.

7 (3) As a result of California's fiscal crisis, school districts
8 have reduced school transportation services, which harms
9 economically disadvantaged pupils and pupils with special needs.

10 (4) California provides transportation services to over 960,000
11 pupils at a cost of over one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000)
12 annually. The state's share of those expenses is only 47 percent.

13 (5) California ranks last among the states in the percentage of
14 pupils who ride schoolbuses to school.

15 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide as much
16 flexibility as possible to school districts to help school districts
17 fully fund school transportation costs.

18 SEC. 2. Article 8 (commencing with Section 41580) is added
19 to Chapter 3.2 of Part 24 of the Education Code, to read:

20
21 Article 8. School Transportation Block Grant
22

23 41580. (a) There is hereby established the school
24 transportation block grant. Commencing with the 2005–06 fiscal
25 year, the Superintendent shall apportion block grant funds to a
26 school district in the same relative statewide proportion that the
27 school district was entitled to receive under the Budget Act of
28 2005 for the programs listed in Section 41581.

29 (b) A school district may expend funds received pursuant to
30 this article for any purpose authorized by the programs listed in
31 Section 41581, as the statutes governing those programs read on
32 January 1, 2005.

33 (c) For purposes of this article, "school district" includes a
34 county office of education or authority operating pursuant to a
35 joint powers agreement if the county offices of education or the
36 joint powers authority are eligible to receive funds for the
37 programs that are listed in Section 41581.

38 41581. The school transportation block grant shall include
39 funding apportioned to school districts for purposes of the
40 following programs:

1 (a) Home-to-school transportation as set forth in Article 10
2 (commencing with Section 41850) of Chapter 5.

3 (b) Special education transportation programs as set forth in
4 Article 10 (commencing with Section 41850) of Chapter 5.

5 41582. Commencing with the 2006–07 fiscal year, the amount
6 of funding a school district receives pursuant to this article shall
7 be adjusted annually for inflation by the amount calculated
8 pursuant to Section 42238.1 and for growth as measured by the
9 district enrollment in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive,
10 as reported in the CBEDS report. For purposes of this
11 subdivision, “CBEDS report” means the report submitted by the
12 school district to the department for purposes of the California
13 Basic Education Data System.